

CURRENT HAPPENINGS

FAITHFUL CHRONICLE OF ALL IMPORTANT ITEMS.

JAPANESE USED RUSE

ENTICED RUSSIANS INTO TRAP BY THEIR OWN SIGNALS.

Officers Were at a Circus—This Is Said to Be the Reason They Were Unprepared for an Attack—Like British at Yorktown.

Dispatches indicate that fighting has continued at Port Arthur with advantage to the Japanese, though the Russians deny it. St. Petersburg advices are that the enemy has lost fifty men and sustained severe damages to several ships.

The Russian railroad line in Manchuria is reported to be blocked by the blowing up of a bridge by Japanese. Vienna advices are to the effect that this work probably was done by Chinese "boxers."

Japanese troops numbering 2,500 are said to be quartered in Seoul, the Korean capital.

Statements of all kinds concerning the Port Arthur fight are published at London.

According to the Che Foo correspondent of the Daily Mail the lack of preparation on the part of the Russians at Port Arthur was due to the fact that all the naval and military officers were attending a circus performance at Port Arthur, which did not terminate until early Tuesday morning.

According to the correspondent of the Paris edition of the New York Herald at Che Foo the Japanese torpedo boats succeeded in entering the outer harbor by a ruse; they used the Russian flashlight signals. This correspondent adds that three Japanese torpedo boats were sunk with great loss of life.

A correspondent of the Standard at Tokyo sends an entirely new account of the Port Arthur encounter. He says Admiral Togo's fleet arrived on Monday night and found the Russian squadron drawn up in battle formation outside the harbor and under the shadow of the forts, destroyers being spread out in front over a distance of five miles. Admiral Togo decided on a night attack and opened fire at 11 o'clock. While the cannonade was hottest a number of Japanese torpedo boats crept along close inshore at the foot of the cliff and succeeded, in the darkness, in getting between the Russian ships and the land. Here they lay unnoticed until the Russians began to give way before the Japanese fire and sought to re-enter the harbor. The Japanese torpedo boats then open fire at comparatively close range and sank two battleships and one cruiser close to the entrance to the harbor. The effect of this coup was the retreat of the remainder of the squadron into the harbor.

Two cablegrams were received at the state department at Washington Thursday from Minister Allen at Seoul, dated Feb. 10. Both refer to the naval engagements off Chemulpo the 8th and 9th and state that 2,500 Japanese soldiers are now in Seoul.

WORK ON FIRE RUINS.

Three Thousand Men Begin the Task of Removing Debris.

Three thousand laborers, accompanied by cars and trucks, began clearing away the debris in the burned district of Baltimore, Md., Thursday. The estimated cost of this work will be \$2,000,000. Merchants and business are gradually resuming business in temporary quarters outside of the fire zone.

A composite estimate of the total loss from the fire by twenty-five expert representatives of leading insurance companies outside of Baltimore places the figures at \$85,000,000. Some of them think the total loss will be reduced by \$15,000,000, as much salvage is being dug out of the ruins. The loss to insurance companies is estimated at 75 per cent of the total loss.

STILL IN THE DARK.

Russian People Do Not Know War Developments.

A rigid censorship at St. Petersburg prevents the newspapers from receiving war news from either Russian or foreign sources. No news has been received since Viceoy Alexieff's dispatch, and the public is consequently still completely in the dark.

All manner of rumors are afloat. The government, however, has taken measures to counteract their publication, forbidding the retail sale of the principal offender, the St. Petersburg Gazette. The government expressed great displeasure at the publication of a report of a Russian victory and the raising of false hopes among the population. Nevertheless rumors circulated verbally are greedily swallowed.

Cuba Decides to Wait.

Havana advices state: The Associated Press is informed by a person of undoubted authority that the \$35,000,000 Cuban loan will not be floated until the monetary conditions are more favorable than they are at present.

Panama Canal Vote.

A Washington special says the senate in executive session has agreed to take action on Monday next to decide upon the time for voting on the Panama canal treaty, and it was determined such date should be on or before Feb. 23.

Balkan War Cloud Grows.

In diplomatic circles at Constantinople the fear is increasing that Turkey and Bulgaria will take advantage of Russia's preoccupation in the far east to settle their differences.

DAKOTA CITY HERALD.

Continuation of the Homer Herald.

DAKOTA CITY, NEB., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1904.

WAR IS DECLARED.

Opening of Hostilities Followed by Formal Notice.

The following cable dispatch received at the Japanese legation at Washington was forwarded at 1:30 o'clock Thursday morning to Heijime Ota, assistant commissioner general of the world's fair for Japan, who is in St. Louis, Mo.:

"His majesty declared war against Russia Wednesday. Russian warships fired upon Japanese transport at Chemulpo, and were replied to by answering fire. Report is almost the same as reported in newspapers. There is none wounded or killed on our warships."

A formal declaration of war is expected. The proclamation has been prepared and approved by the cabinet at Tokio. Foreign Minister Komura has gone to the palace to secure the emperor's approval.

The mikado is personally superintending affairs, and the cabinet holds daily sessions. The government has issued orders for the protection of all Russian subjects living in Japan.

Baron Kanako and Baron Sukematsu have been sent to the United States and Great Britain to explain Japan's position and attitude in the present conflict.

The Japanese seized Masampo on Sunday and dispatched a heavy force there. Japan will fortify the port and establish a naval and military base there.

Masampo is an exceedingly important point, as it controls the Korean channel, and is an excellent base for future operations.

In a dispatch from Che Foo, dated Feb. 10, a correspondent of the London Daily Mail says:

"A northeast gale which is raging here bodes no good to the crippled Russian ships."

Complete demoralization reigns at Port Arthur.

Advices received from Kwar Tung, Manchuria, say that 10,000 armed Chinese, unofficially recognized as government troops, are operating in the district, and are expected to attack the railroad guards when they hear of the Russian disaster."

DENOUNCE JAPAN'S ACTION.

Paris Papers Declare Monday Night's Attack Was Treasonous.

The Paris newspapers unanimously denounce Japan's action in attacking the Russian ships at Port Arthur before a formal declaration of war as treasonous, worthy of savages and contrary to the laws of nations.

Pro-Russian sympathies are universally expressed, but an equally expressed note is the satisfaction in the probability, which is considered almost a certainty, that hostilities will be localized to the present belligerents.

In Russian diplomatic circles the success of Japan naturally aroused the greatest regret. It was frankly admitted that Russia expected to lose upon the sea, but it was added that she would certainly conquer on land.

ALMOST A PANIC.

Sheet of Flame Flashes Out in Metropolitan Opera House.

There was some alarm in the dress circle of the Metropolitan opera house at New York when during the second act of "Lucia" a sheet of flame and a cloud of smoke burst from an electric bell at one side of the main entrance to the circle.

Mme. Sembler and M. Campanari were on the stage at the time, and both looked startled. The orchestra saw it, too, and there was an instant's pause. Several women rose from their seats and started to enter the aisles. In an instant ushers crowded down the aisle, assuring everybody there was not the slightest danger, and soon restored confidence. An usher said that a "battery" had blown out.

TO SWEEP THE SEA.

More Victories by the Japanese Are Looked For.

Naval men at Berlin are doing little else at the moment than talking about the Japanese-Russian engagements and the deductions to be drawn therefrom. One conviction was that Japan had acquired such superiority that her command of the sea practically results.

The unwillingness of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur to leave the protection of the shore batteries enables Japan, in the opinion of experts at Berlin, to conduct her landing operations unmolested. It is believed Port Arthur will be invested on the land side as quickly as possible.

TO SEIZE THE GUNBOAT.

Uncle Sam Aroused by Action of Dominican Ship.

Specific instructions have been cabled from Washington to Rear Admiral Wise, commanding the training squadron in Dominican waters, regarding the protection of American shipping interests there.

The firing on the steamer New York by a Dominican gunboat aroused indignation in official circles.

It was said at the navy department that the probable course of action after such an outrage would be the seizure of the Dominican gunboat by Admiral Wise, in which event it probably would be carried to Guantanamo.

Fatal Pennsylvania Fire.

Six persons, all foreigners, were burned to death at Trenton, Pa. The fire destroyed six double dwellings.

Four Killed at Railroad Crossing.

Four persons were killed at the South-ern railway crossing at Waterloo post-office, three miles from Washington, in Alexandria County, Va. The party was returning from Washington in a wagon which was struck by an engine.

Coal Is Contraband.

Information available in London shows that Russia has accumulated over 200,000 tons of Welsh steam coal, a part of which is already at Port Arthur and part on the way from Cardiff.

FIRST FIGHT OF WAR.

Japanese Surprise Russians at Port Arthur.

The Japanese torpedo boats attacked the Russian fleet at Port Arthur during Monday night. Three Russian ships were badly damaged.

The Japanese, who thus scored the first success of the war, escaped undamaged.

Martial law has been proclaimed at Port Arthur.

It was announced at the foreign office at Paris that the Russian cruiser Pallada was sunk in the torpedo attack by the Japanese on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur. The injuries sustained to Retvizan and Czarovitch are not known.

It is reported on the same authority that the cable from Vladivostok has been cut.

A St. Petersburg special, dated Feb. 10, 1 a. m., says: The following official bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram from Viceoy Alexieff's chief of staff, dated Feb. 9:

"By order of the viceoy I beg to report that this day, at about 11 o'clock in the morning, a Japanese squadron, consisting of about fifteen battleships and cruisers, approached Port Arthur and opened fire. The enemy was received with a cannonade from the shore batteries and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement."

"At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south."

"Our losses in the fleet were two officers wounded, nine men killed and forty-one wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three wounded. The battleship Poltava and the cruiser Norik each had a hole knocked in her side below the water line. The forts were slightly damaged. Maj. Gen. Ping."

It is the general opinion of the British press at London that Viceoy Alexieff's dispatches conceal the extent of the damage that the Japanese onset inflicted upon the Russian fleet, and that when the actual facts become known it will be seen that Japan, by her pluck and energy, has practically secured command of the sea.

TO RISE FROM RUINS.

Grave Problems Confront the City of Baltimore.

With the great fire which ate up property variously estimated at from \$25,000,000 to \$150,000,000, slowly burning itself out, Baltimore, Md., awoke Tuesday to face the grave questions of civic and municipal readjustment.

Mayor McLaure, when asked for a statement, delineated the following:

"Baltimore now enters undaunted into the task of reconstruction. A greater and more beautiful city will rise from the ruins. We shall make of this calamity a future blessing. We are staggered by the terrible blow, but we are not discouraged, and every energy of the city as a municipality and its citizens and private individuals will be devoted to a rehabilitation that will not only prove the staff we are made of, but will be a monument to the American spirit."

An investigation shows the vaults of the Continental, Maryland and Mercantile Trust Companies and Brown Bros. bank containing millions worth of securities have not been damaged in the least.

NOT TO AID JAPS.

Chinese Government to Remain Neutral in War.

China, it is understood at Paris, has given official assurances that she will immediately issue a declaration of neutrality.

This is considered highly important in view of the possibility of the Chinese, impressed by the Japanese success at Port Arthur, joining the Japanese.

At Washington it is said Secretary Hay has addressed an identical note to a number of European powers to ascertain if they are willing to join in a notice to Russia and Japan that during hostilities and thereafter the neutrality and integrity of China must be recognized. The details of the note are not obtainable.

GAME SMUGGLERS FINED.

Must Pay \$20,000 or Serve Nearly a Year in Jail.

Fines of \$20,000 each have been imposed by the district court of Jackson County, Minn., upon William Kerr and Robert Poole, who were convicted of having been implicated in a wholesale attempt to smuggle game from Minnesota across the line into Iowa. In default of payment of the amount of the fines, Kerr has the alternative of 300 days in jail and Poole of 200 days in jail.

The prosecution of Kerr and Poole grew out of the largest seizure of game ever made by the authorities of the state, 2,496 ducks and other game birds being captured.

Arrest in Bedford Murder.

James McDonald, the teamster whose testimony before the board of inquiry in the Bedford, Ind., murder mystery was to the effect that he walked home in front of Miss Schaefer and Capt. Alexander and met two men standing at the corner of the place where the murder occurred has been arrested charged with the murder.

White Girl Slain by Negress.

White Friedline, a white girl, aged 22 years, was shot and killed at Somerset, Pa., by Mrs. Frank Simpson, wife of a negro barber. It is alleged that jealousy was the cause.

New Cabinet in Serbia.

As a result of the strife at Belgrade, Serbia, over the relations of the king with the members of the military clique responsible for the murder of Alexander and Draga a new cabinet has been formed. The premier is M. Druyev.

Mediation Out on Question.

At the Russian embassy at Berlin a statement was given to the National Zeitung which says war probably cannot be avoided, and that mediation by other powers is wholly out of the question.

STATE OF NEBRASKA

NEWS OF THE WEEK IN A CONDENSED FORM.

Find Bodies of the Barkers—Had Been Shot and Killed and Then Buried in a Cattle Shed Not Far from Riverton.

A special from Invaule says: Great excitement prevails in this community over the discovery of the bodies of Dan Barker and wife, who were murdered last Sunday night. The bodies were found in a shallow grave in a cattle shed, not far from Riverton, clothed only in their sleeping garments. Bullets from a revolver which had pierced the man and his wife told the story of the gruesome affair. There were two bullet holes in Barker's neck and breast and one in Mrs. Barker's breast.

Frank Barker, the murdered man's brother, is held in jail suspected of the crime. Although he strenuously denies his guilt, circumstantial evidence points very strongly to him and it is feared that he will be lynched by the infuriated citizens and the sheriff of Webster County is exercising every precaution to protect his prisoner.

As soon as the mutilated forms were discovered William Walters, a brother of Mrs. Barker, declared that the crime was committed as the result of a love affair, in which Frank Barker, now under arrest, was the unsuccessful rival of his murdered brother. The latter won the hand of the wife whom Frank is accused of killing. Walters is employed in Hohmann's livery barn in this city, and left for the scene of the murder. When the Barkers were first missed by the neighbors Frank was questioned. He told the marshal at Invaule that they had gone to Red Cloud to take the train to Denver, but this was disproved by telephone messages to Red Cloud, where it was ascertained they had not been to that city in some weeks, and where they both were well known.

CHILD BADLY HURT.

Fines of a Pitchfork Disfigure Her Face.

An accident occurred at the home of S. J. Rice of Harvard, late Saturday evening in which a daughter 7 years of age was seriously injured by the act of her self and an elder sister, 14 years of age. The two girls were about the barn, the elder girl being engaged in pitching straw in at the stable door, when suddenly the younger girl started to come quickly out of the door, neither knowing the other was there, with accident a spout of one of the sharp tines in the fork, which penetrated the face in the eyebrow of the right eye in a slanting direction toward the nose, fully one inch in depth, just escaping the eye and brain.

The child has lain in a stupor most of the time, with occasional spells of perfect consciousness, and at this time shows some little improvement.

MURDER VICTIMS BURIED.

Church at Red Cloud Crowded by Those Who Come to Services.

The funeral services of Dan Barker and Alice Barker, the victims of the Feb. 9 murder, were held at Red Cloud from the First Methodist Episcopal Church, conducted by Rev. Hauptmann of the Congregational and Rev. Hutchins of the Methodist Episcopal Churches, long before the hour for services to begin the church was crowded to its utmost capacity. A large crowd was present from Invaule and a larger one would have been present had it not been for the weather.

Frank Barker, the alleged murderer, showed some signs of weakness Sunday when he was taken to the hospital, but taking establishment to view the remains, but gave no sign of grief or excitement.

Losses Hand in Corn Shredder.

The 20-year-old son of William Hecker, reported to be destroyed throughout this special section of Nebraska from the effects of the last cold weather. The warm weather in January started the buds growing so that they were unable to withstand the temperature of 15 below zero.

Dogs Cause Serious Accident.

While the wife of Councilman Frank Buttery of Plattsmouth was walking across a street south of the depot, a yard and commenced to bark at her. She became frightened and started to run, but had not gone far when she stumbled and fell, causing a painful fracture of her left limb.

Deputy Gets Clerkship.

The county commissioners met at Fairbury and appointed Frank A. Houston county clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late clerk, W. S. Diller. Mr. Houston has been deputy clerk for the last three years.

Peeping Tom.

A particularly bold Peeping Tom has been operating in Grand Island for the past two months, and his actions have become so terrifying that those molested are now in constant fear.

Shatter Breaks His Leg.

William Skating 17 years of age, while skating on the ice of the river at Columbus accidentally fell and suffered a compound fracture of the left leg just above the ankle.

Arrested on a Serious Charge.

Henry Priest, a young man about 25 years old, of Homer, who for several years has been clerking in different stores in Homer, was arrested by Sheriff H. C. Hansen on a warrant charging him with being a fugitive from justice from the state of Iowa.

Burned Bridge Delays Train.

The burning out of a small bridge at Markell, eighty miles west of Grand Island, delayed all passenger trains on the Union Pacific. The fire was discovered in time to prevent any accident.

LOOKING AFTER LIQUOR SALES

York People Propose to Get After the Express Companies.

At the meeting of the York city council, a part of the time was taken up in discussing the best means to prevent the illegal sales of whisky in York. A resolution is made that on druggists of the city make a monthly report of all whisky sold. The druggists are required to keep out on show cases in plain sight, their liquor register, and to register every sale.

At the council meeting two druggist permits were hung up until the next meeting. Two permits were granted that had been taken away one year ago, owing to remonstrance filed by the temperance people and one druggist permit was taken away because the city council believed it had been abused. One of the great sources is the express companies, and the city attorney, with the assistance of the temperance people, will attempt to secure evidence of illegal sales of liquor by express companies who receive daily from twenty-five to one hundred cases and sealed packages, and before closing hours every case and package is disposed of.

TROLLEY CARS ON RANGE.

Electric Railway Will Connect Springfield with Newport.

The proposed electric railway between Springfield and Newport is almost assured. At a meeting of the most prominent men in the enterprise it was estimated that \$100,000 can be raised by Springfield citizens and probably half this amount can be raised at Newport. As only about \$250,000 will be required to build the road, it is thought that the remaining \$100,000 can be raised by bonding the road, although some conservative capitalists are expected to help finance the proposition.

It is proposed to capitalize at \$300,000 and immediate steps will be taken toward the incorporation of the company.

LOVER WEDS; SHE TAKES LIFE

A Twenty-Year-Old Lincoln Girl Takes Strychnine.

Without a word of explanation Louise C. Klusman, a girl of 20 years, took strychnine Monday morning at the home of her sister, Mrs. Kilbur, at Lincoln, and died within a few minutes. She calmly informed her relatives that she had taken poison.

For three years Miss Klusman had been a sweetheart of William Ramey, a cook at the insane asylum. Saturday night he married Celia Murphy, a waitress at the same place. Miss Klusman heard of it and confessed that she loved Ramey. Her despondency and disappointment caused the suicide.

MUST OPEN THE DEPOT.

Peremptory Order Issued by Judge Harrington.

The only civil case of importance at the last session of the district court was the mandamus proceedings against the Northwestern Railway to compel it to keep its depot open at Stafford, a station about twenty miles east of O'Neill. About twenty-five citizens who reside in the vicinity of Stafford were present at the hearing. Judge Harrington, after hearing all the evidence, granted a peremptory writ commanding the company to maintain a depot and agent.

After disposing of a great number of minor matters, Judge Harrington ordered court adjourned sine die.

MOVE TO CHEAPER LANDS.

Cass County Farmers Sell Out at Big Figures and Buy Elsewhere.

Cass County farmers continue to change owners at a rapid rate. Milt Moore has sold his 240-acre farm to Mr. Gramlich of Springfield for \$100 per acre, or \$24,000. William Case sold his 160-acre farm to Peter Stoll for \$75 per acre. Arthur Rikli has sold his 100 acres for \$75 per acre.

Several Cass County men have been purchasing land in the counties of Pierce, Knox and Antelope, among the number being Carl Kinsman of Plattsmouth, who has purchased 100 acres in Pierce County for \$42.50 per acre.

She Drank Paris Green.

Calvin bidding her husband goodbye, Mrs. Charles Peterson of Havelock drank a mixture containing four ounces of paris green before he could stop her. This was Thursday night. She died early Saturday morning after suffering terrible agony.

Eddie Slattery Not Guilty.

Eddie Slattery, charged with the murder of Henry Shaw at O'Neill, last March, is acquitted. The jury was out forty hours. Shaw was killed for going across his land. The shooting developed the most celebrated case in the county since that of Barrett Scott.

Is Crippled for Life.

William Schiefelreche, a farmer living north of Petersburg, had the misfortune Tuesday afternoon to fall from a load of hay and strike upon the frozen ground, broke his hip bone at the joint and sustained other injuries that will cripple him for the remainder of his life.

School Bonds Valid.

Every ward in York voted a majority in favor of school bonds. The amount of bonds are \$28,000, at 5 per cent. The vote was very light owing to cold, stormy weather and was 422 for, and 208 against.

Changes Mind on Ditch.

Thomas J. Castle of North Bend, who was one of the plaintiffs in the case involving the right of the county to construct the central cut-off ditch, has paid the amount of his assessment into court and will withdraw as a plaintiff.

Gas Explosion Wrecks Home.

The gas plant in the home of Robert Lewis, who resides near Foster, exploded and blew one side out of his \$10,000 dwelling home. The family escaped uninjured.

Sues Saloonkeeper.

Suit for \$5,000 has been brought in the district court by Louis A. Pope, Mary E. Pope, John J. Pope and William F. Pope, minors, by their next friend, B. F. Langhain, against George Oberle, a saloonkeeper in Greenwood, who is charged with having sold liquor to the above named minors.

Diphtheria at Gretna.

The family of Jesse Trumble, living at Gretna, has been quarantined on account of diphtheria. Two of the children are reported low with the disease.



SHORT NOTES.

The Nebraska Humane Society will organize a branch in South Omaha.

Omaha will have no exhibition of the work of its public schools at the St. Louis fair.

Samuel B. Haase, a pioneer living on a fine farm four miles south of Elkhorn, where he has resided about forty years, is dead.

Miss Jean Morton entertained at Nebraska City in honor of several out-of-town guests with a house party at Arbor Lodge.

Bert Tanner of Lincoln has closed a deal with E. W. Baughman of Havelock for the purchase of his paper, the Havelock Times.

A. D. Cummings, an old man of 70 years, dropped dead in his own home at Norfolk from heart disease. He formerly lived at Tilden.

Despite the extremely cold weather a large crowd assembled Sunday at the dedication of the First Congregational Church at David City.

The mortgage record of Cumina County for the last three weeks shows mortgages filed during that period of \$14,000 and released \$17,400.

An excellent and highly amusing entertainment was given at the opera house at Oakland by home talent, known as the Smoked Swede minstrels.

Fire destroyed the grain elevator of W. F. Hammond at Elgin, and threatened the entire town for a time. The loss is \$10,000; insurance, \$2,500.

Fire in Crofton totally destroyed the home of Dr. Talbot. The town is off the railroad and has no fire protection. The blaze started from a defective chimney.

The old Lincoln car which has for many years been the property of the Union Pacific Railway at Omaha, is to be taken to St. Louis for exhibition purposes.

J. B. Palmer, a retired farmer of Fremont, was struck by train No. 1 on the Union Pacific at a crossing two miles west of Ames and sustained serious injuries.